

BECKWITH-SMITH, MERTON, Second Lieut., was born 11 July, 1890, only son of Beckwith Smith, Esq., of Aberarder, Inverness-shire, N.B. He entered the Coldstream Guards 1 Aug. 1912. He served in the European War from 1914; was promoted Lieutenant 18 Dec. 1914; was Adjutant, Coldstream Guards, 15 March to 20 Aug. 1915; Staff Captain 27 Aug. 1915, to 3 July, 1916; became Captain 23 Feb. 1916; was Brigade Major 4 July, 1916, to 26 Aug. 1917; G.S.O.2, 27 Aug. 1917, to 2 April, 1919; he was three times mentioned in Despatches, and created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order [London Gazette, 9 Nov. 1914]: "Merton Beckwith-Smith, Second Lieut., 1st Battn. Coldstream Guards. On the night of 4 Oct., near Vendresse, with a party of 50 men, he attacked and carried with the bayonet the advanced German trenches, disabling 20 of the enemy, and displayed great enterprise and coolness in this operation, in which he was wounded." Capt. Beckwith Smith was Brigade Major, 2nd Guards Brigade, Forces in Great Britain, 3 April, 1919. He was Adjutant, Coldstream Guards, March to Sept. 1915; was promoted to Captain, and served as Brigade Major, 1st Guards Brigade. He was awarded the Military Cross, and also received the Croix de Guerre. On 14 March, 1918, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Capt. Beckwith-Smith married Honor, only daughter of Mr. John Blundell Leigh, of Stratton Audley, Bicester. Princess Marie Louise was present at the wedding.

Source : The Distinguished Service Order 1886-1923